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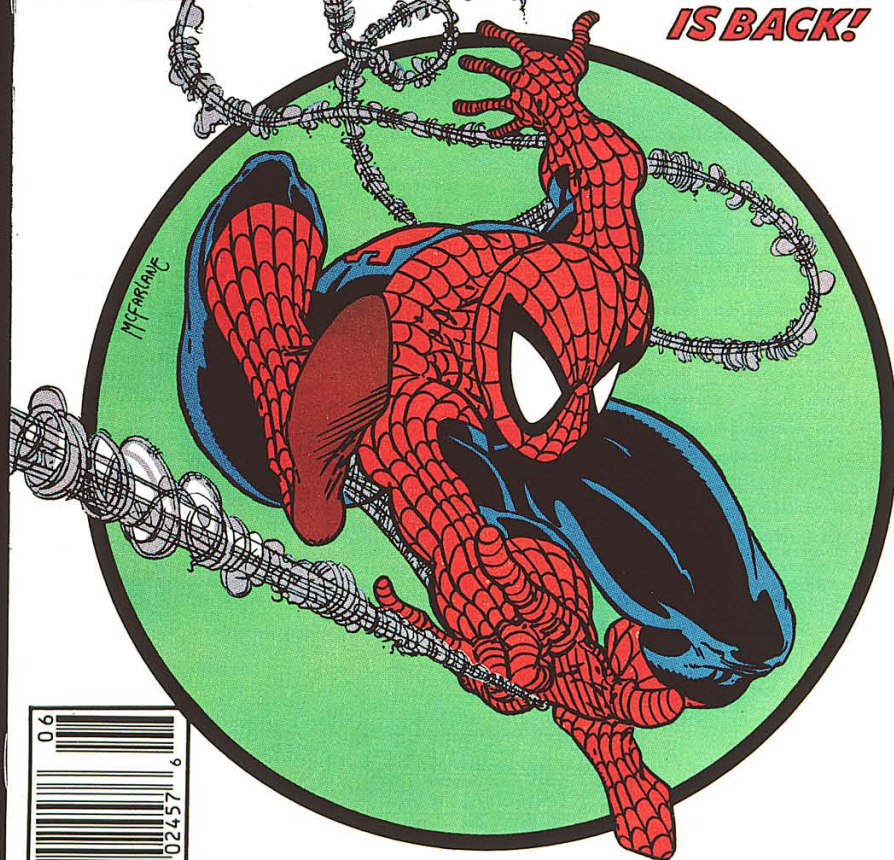


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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IN THIS ISSUE:
**SILVER
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IS BACK!



G.I. JOE

A REAL AMERICAN HERO®



NOW, YOU CAN BE THE NEXT JOE!

YOU can be a Real American Hero and get a G.I. Joe action figure of YOU plus your own personalized file card.

Just fill out the enlistment form below and we'll develop your own top-secret file card.

1. You make-up your own special G.I. Joe code name.
(Use up to 20 letters).

2. You would most characterize yourself as: (check one)
☐ A leader. You're always in control of any situation and inspire confidence.
☐ A corpsman. You're the backbone of any group; quiet, efficient, powerful.
☐ A loner. You value getting the job done over all else.

3. You're at your best: (check one)
☐ In high-stress situations. Suddenly, you become all nerve-endings and tensed muscle.
☐ When endurance is called for. You are endlessly strong, endlessly patient.
☐ When faced with a difficult decision. Your logical mind loves a challenge.
☐ In the heat of action. You have a supremely high energy level.

4. G.I. Joe Team members consider you to be: (check one)
☐ A good friend to all, always there when someone needs a hand.
☐ The type of man who inspires respect.
☐ An offbeat combination of military skill and artistic talent.
☐ A marvel: No one can keep up with you for long.

5. Service Branch (check one)
☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard

6. Primary Military Specialty (check one)
☐ Infantry ☐ Intelligence ☐ Communications
☐ Medic ☐ Artillery ☐ Jungle Warfare
☐ Airborne ☐ Armor ☐ Special Forces
☐ Pilot ☐ S.E.A.L. ☐ Martial Arts

7. Secondary Specialty (check one)
☐ Computers ☐ Counter-Espionage
☐ Drill Instructor ☐ Radar
☐ Rifle Instructor ☐ Electronics
☐ Laser Weapons ☐ Machinist
☐ Combat Engineer ☐ Frogman
☐ Gunners Mate

8. Weapons Expert (check two)
☐ M-16 ☐ XM-76 Grenade ☐ M-60
☐ Launcher ☐ U21 ☐ M-1911AT Auto Pistol
☐ M-2 Browning ☐ M-7 ☐ M-32 Pulverizer
☐ Cal. Heavy ☐ Flamethrower ☐ Expert all NATO
☐ Machine Gun ☐ Reflex Crossbow ☐ Warsaw Pact Small Arms
☐ LAW Rocket ☐ M-11 ☐ Submachine Gun
☐ System

9. Martial Arts Expert (check two)
☐ Tai Kwan Do ☐ Jujitsu ☐ Karate
☐ Kung-Fu ☐ Zen Sword ☐ Throwing Stars

10. Schooling/Training (check three)
☐ Airborne School ☐ Jungle Warfare
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☐ Special Forces School ☐ S.E.A.L. School
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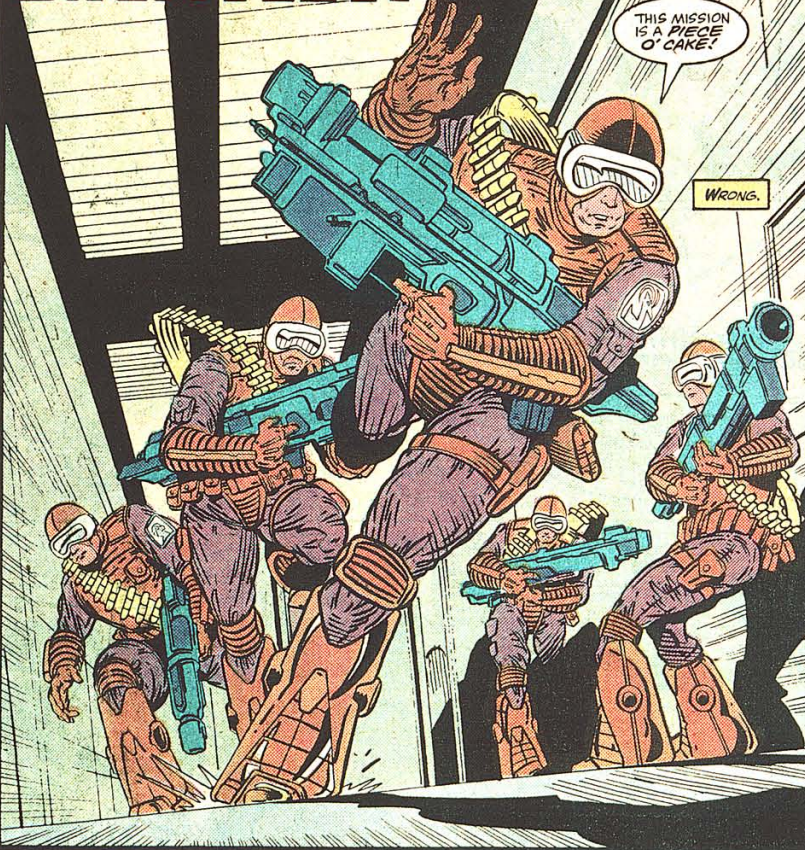
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THE SABLE GAUNTLET!

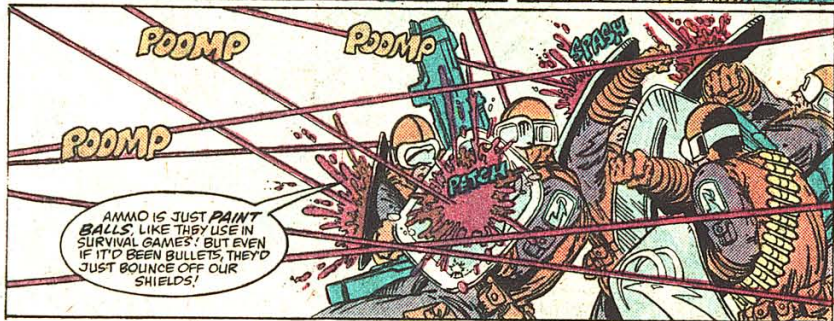
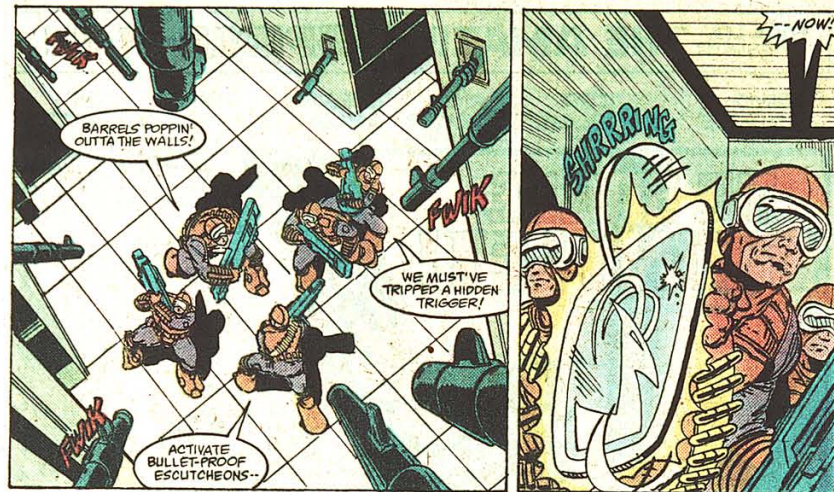


COME ON, MEN! THE WILD PACK HAS TAKEN EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN THROWN AT US, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE CORRIDOR TO GO!

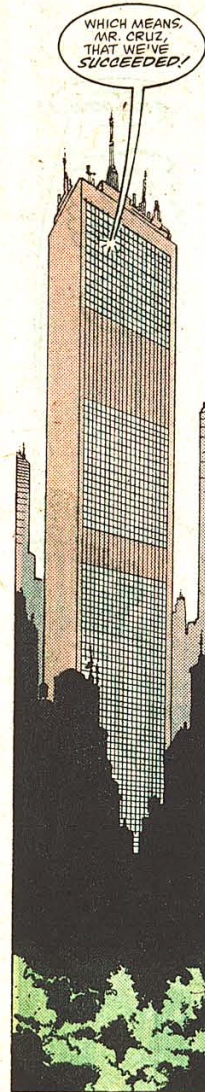
THIS MISSION IS A PIECE O' CAKE!

WRONG.

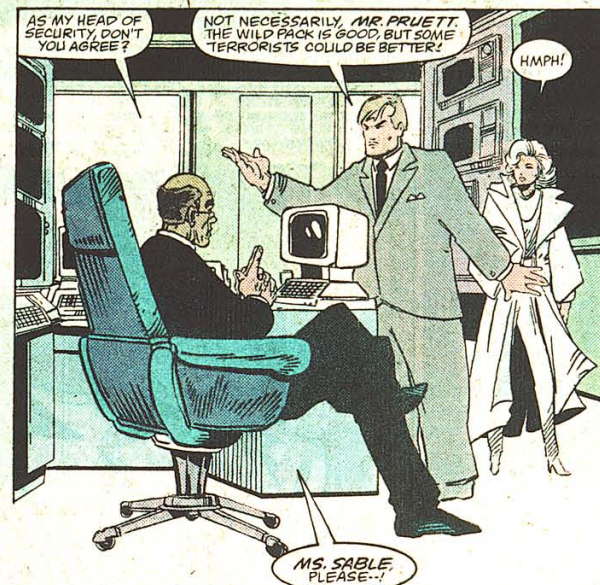
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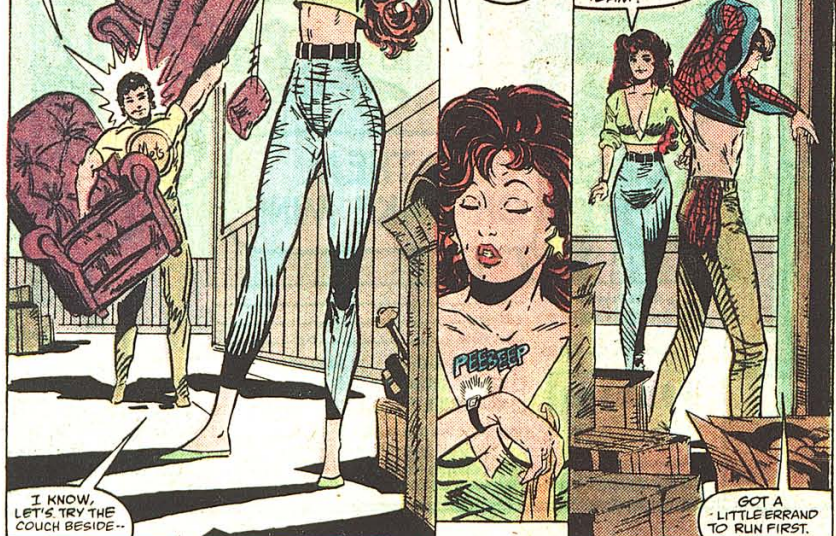
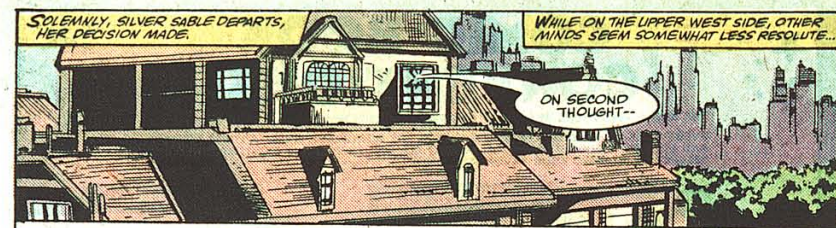
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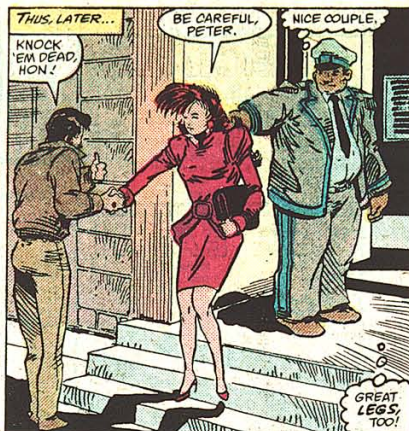
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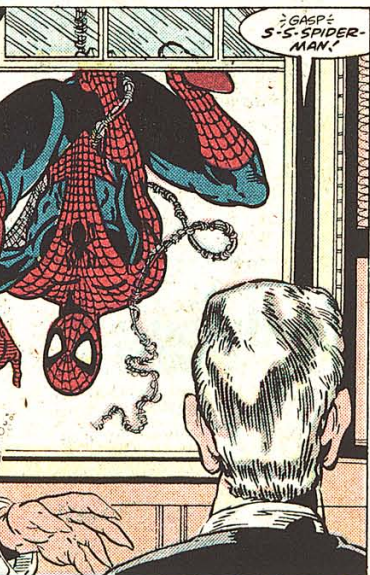
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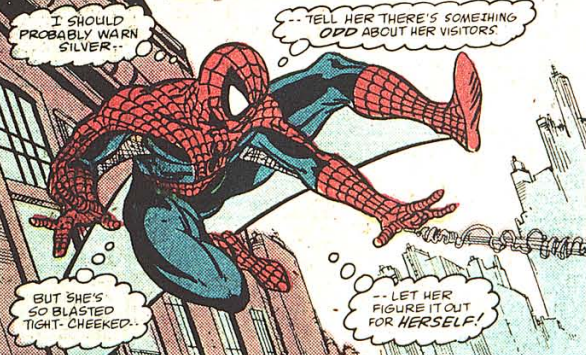
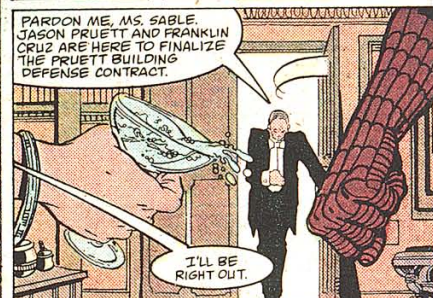
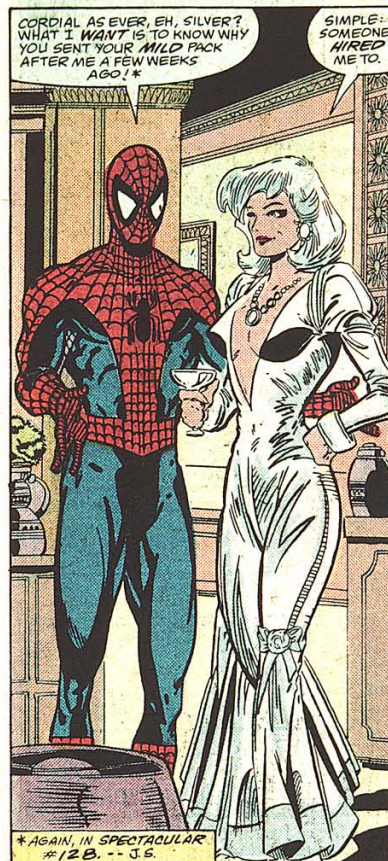
* AND FOR THAT STORY, CHECK OUT WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #39--J.G.



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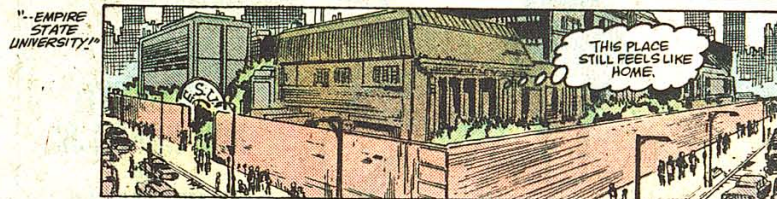
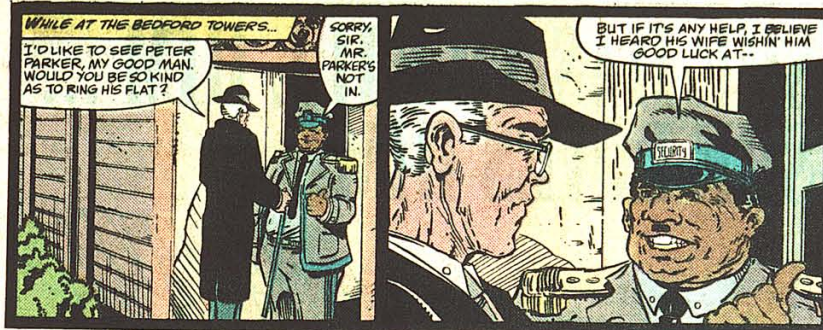
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I CAN'T DENY I MISS THE ACADEMIC LIFE. BUT I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MISSING IT-- REGISTRATION FOR THAT PHOTO COURSE I WANTED WAS FULL!

MAYBE I COULD AUDIT THE COURSE. GET THE KNOWLEDGE IF NOT THE CRED!



DR. SLOAN! HI!

I SAW YOU PASSING BY AND WONDERED IF YOU COULD HELP ME OUT MY PHYSICS CLASS IS HAVING TROUBLE GRASPING OMNIG RESISTANCE, AND SINCE YOU WERE ALWAYS SO EFFECTIVE AS A STUDENT TEACHER...



HE COULD.

FIRST, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT ELECTRONICS ARE ALWAYS ON THE MOVE-- SORT OF LIKE PEE-WEE HERMAN AFTER A MEXICAN DINNER!

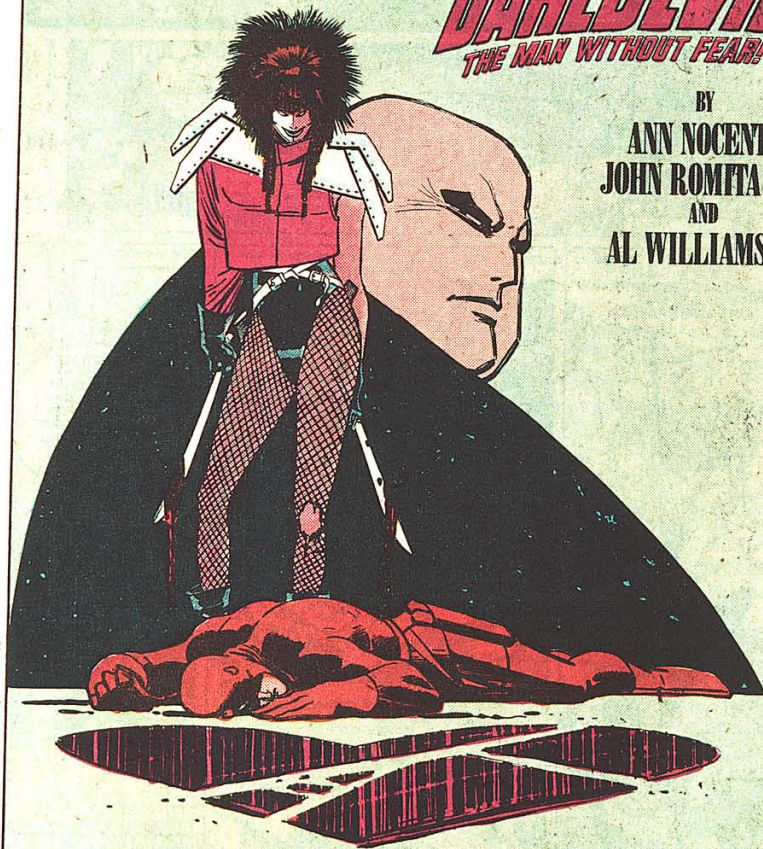


SHE HAS TO KILL HIM ... SHE LOVES HIM.

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

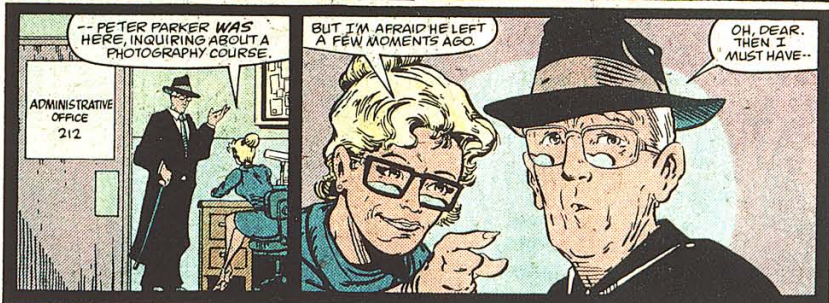
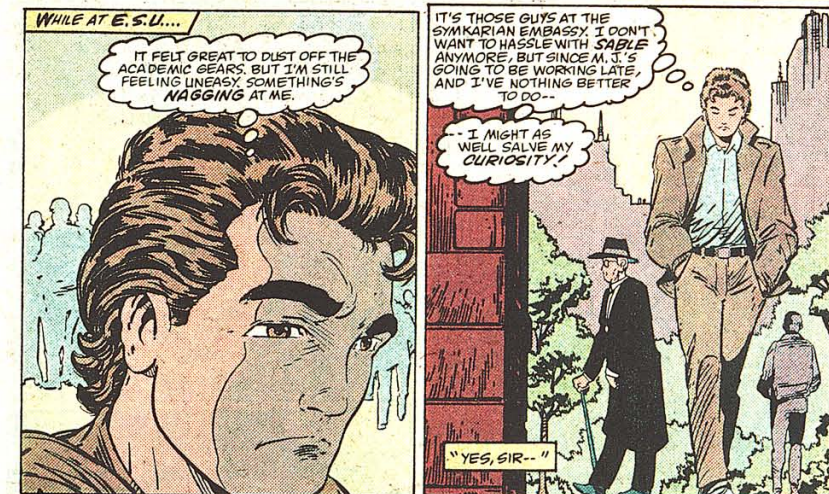
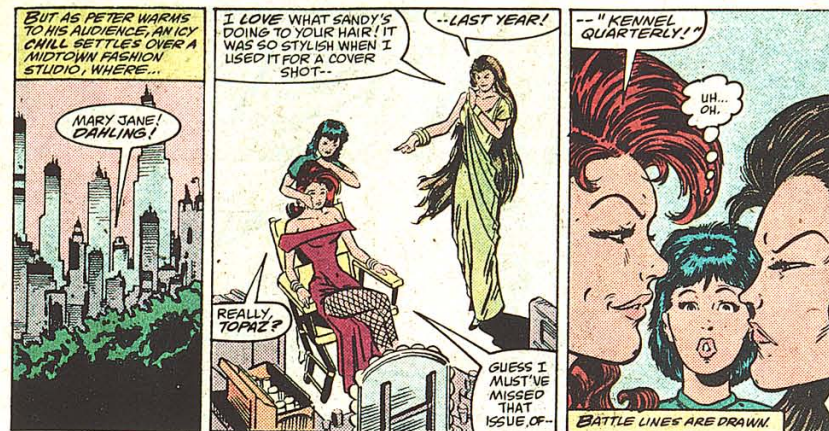
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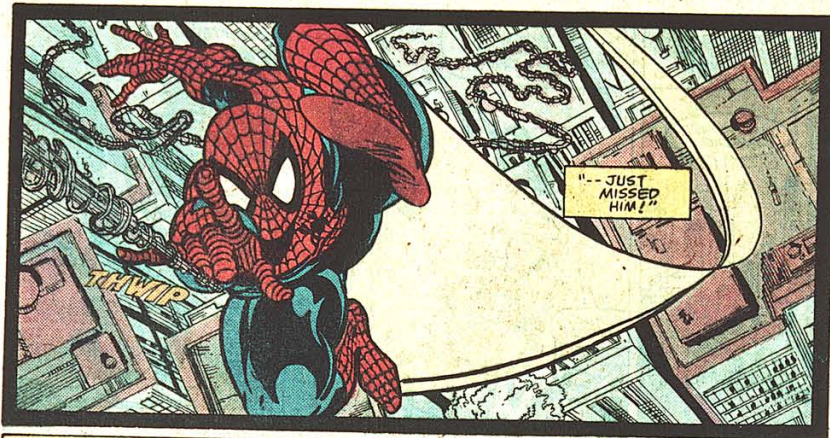
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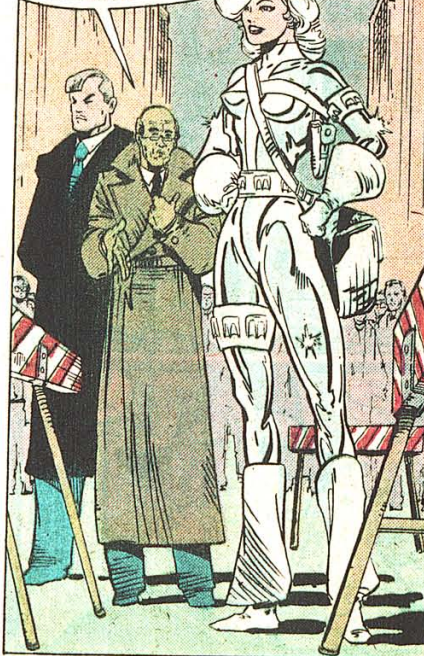
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"-- JUST MISSED HIM!"

EVENING COMES TO THE PRUETT BUILDING-- AS DOES A CAST OF TENSE AND EAGER PLAYERS...

TO SUMMARIZE, MS. SABLE: YOU'RE TO MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE BUILDING'S DEFENSES. WHEN YOU REACH THE SECURITY ROOM ON THE TOP FLOOR, PRESS THE FLASHING BUTTON ON THE COMPUTER CONSOLE-- THAT WILL SIGNAL US THAT YOU'VE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.



I'LL BE MONITORING YOUR PROGRESS FROM THE TECHNICAL VAN.

I UNDERSTAND.



IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE...

NOTHING, MR. PRUETT.



NOTHING BUT THE CHALLENGE...

...AND THE VICTORY!



WHILE ACROSS TOWN...

I CHECKED PRUETT OUT AS BEST I COULD. HE'S A TOUGH BUSINESSMAN, BUT SEEMS LEGIT.



CRUZ, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS MORE PUZZLING. COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING ON HIM EARLIER THAN THREE YEARS AGO. THAT DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING.

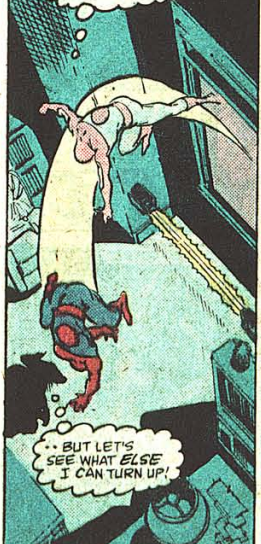
-- BUT IT DOES MERIT FURTHER INVESTIGATION! ACCORDING TO THE PHONE BOOK, THIS SHOULD BE CRUZ'S APARTMENT--



-- WHOA! SPIDER-SENSE WARNING ME! A PHOTO-ELECTRIC DETECTION SYSTEM!



NOT UNUSUAL FOR A SECURITY SPECIALIST--



... BUT LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE I CAN TURN UP!

HOWEVER, AFTER A HALF-HOUR OF THOROUGH SEARCHING...



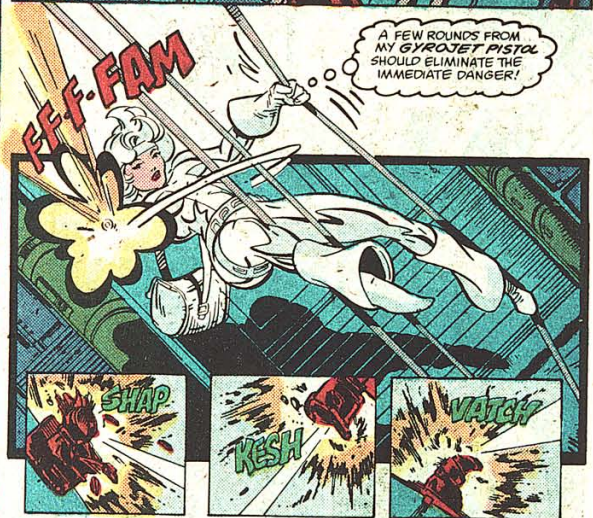
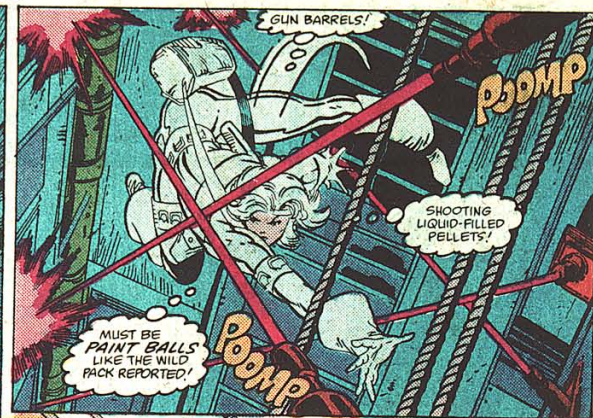
ZIP! ZILCH! NADA! COULD I HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT THIS GUY?

AH, WELL, GUESS I'D BETTER LEAVE. WON'T DO ANY GOOD JUST SITTING HERE IN THE--

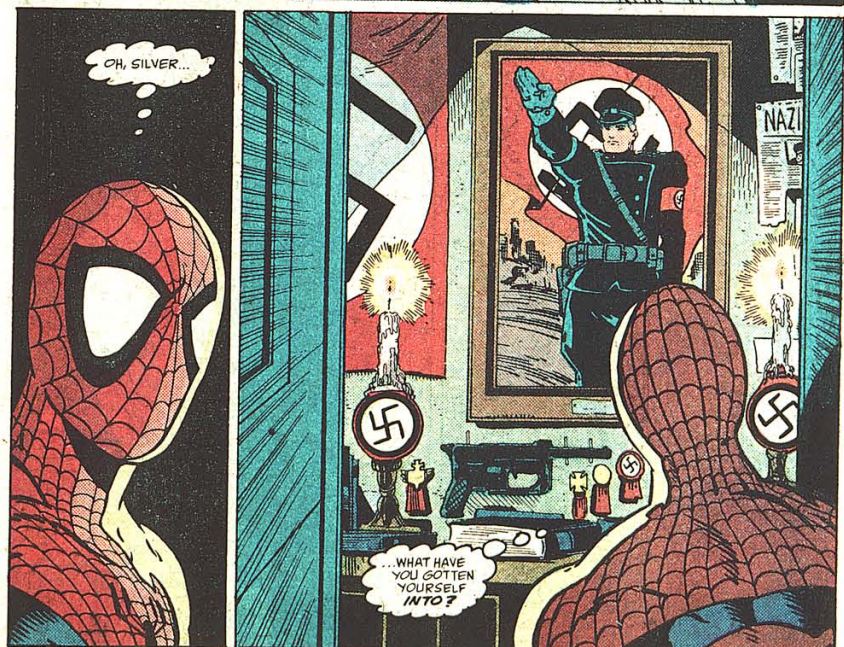
DARK? WAIT-A-MINUTE! THERE'S LIGHT SHINING FROM THAT SEAM! LIGHT COMING FROM SOMETHING--

-- BEHIND THE WALLS!

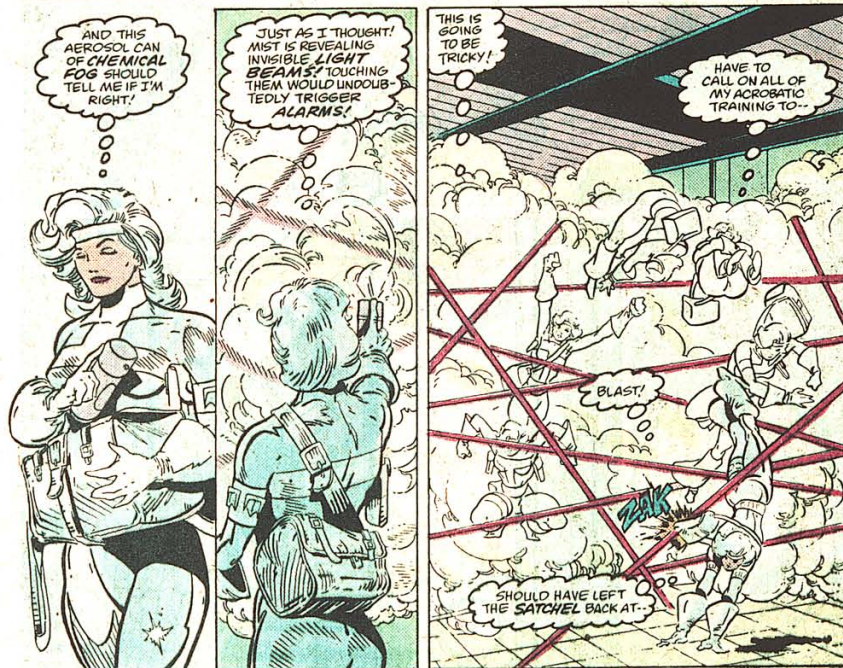
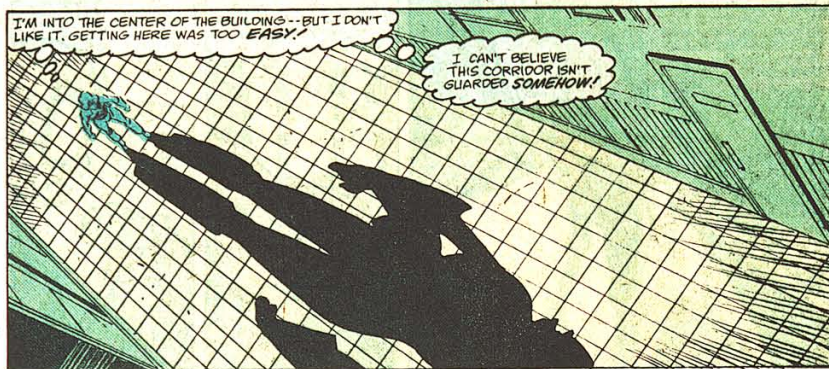




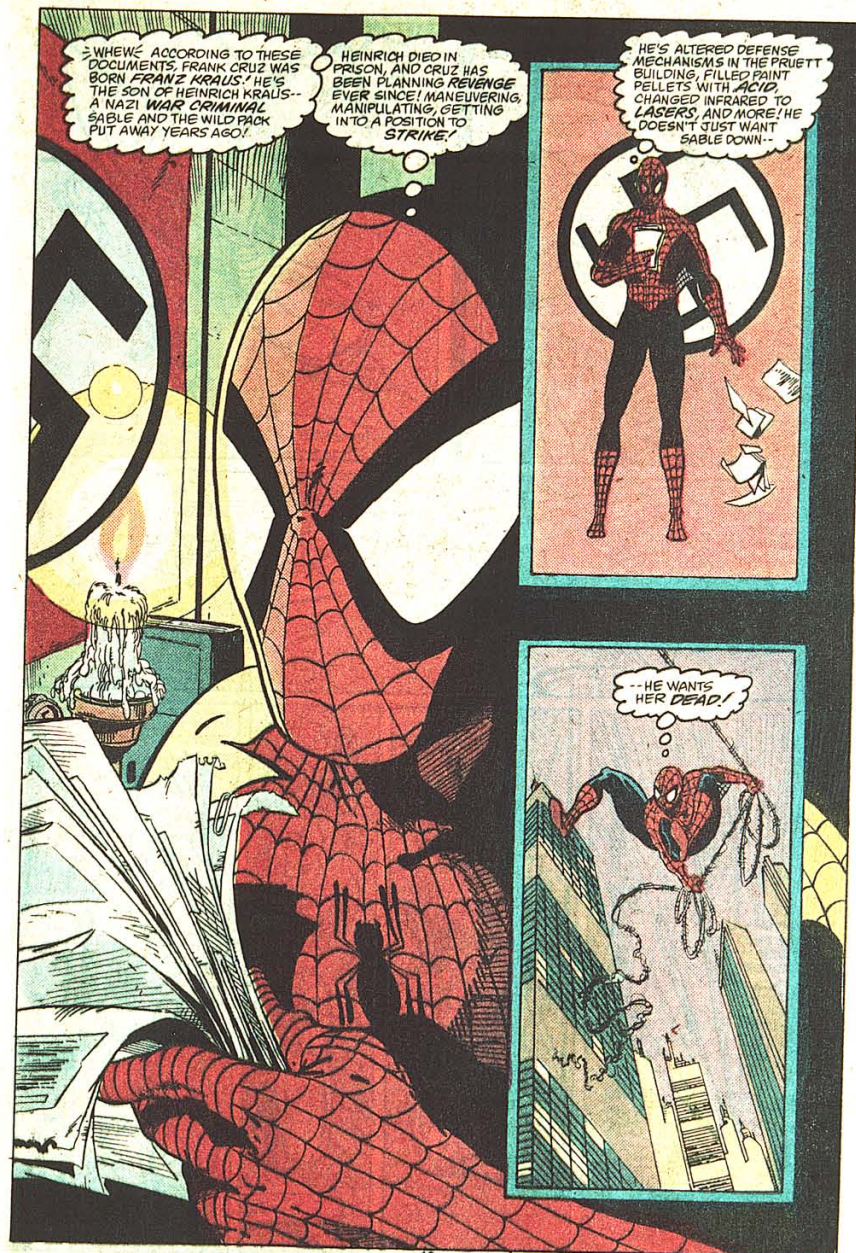
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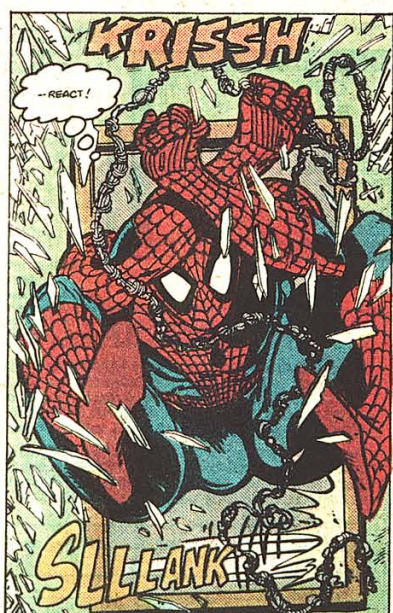
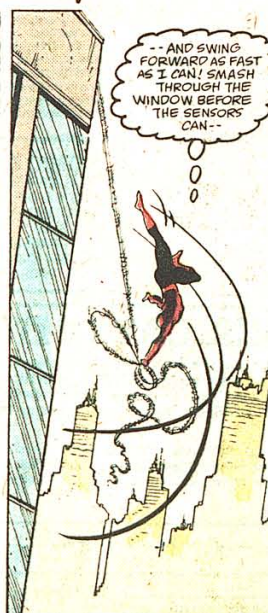
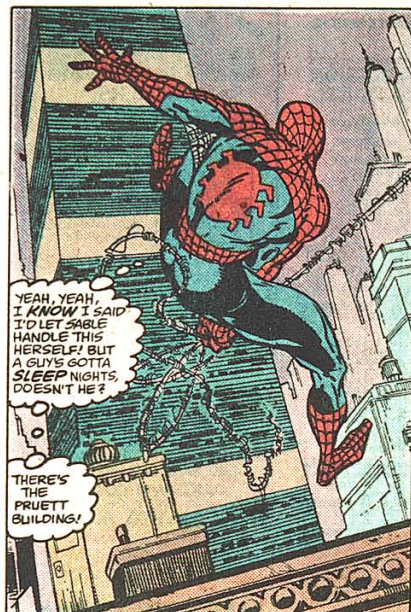
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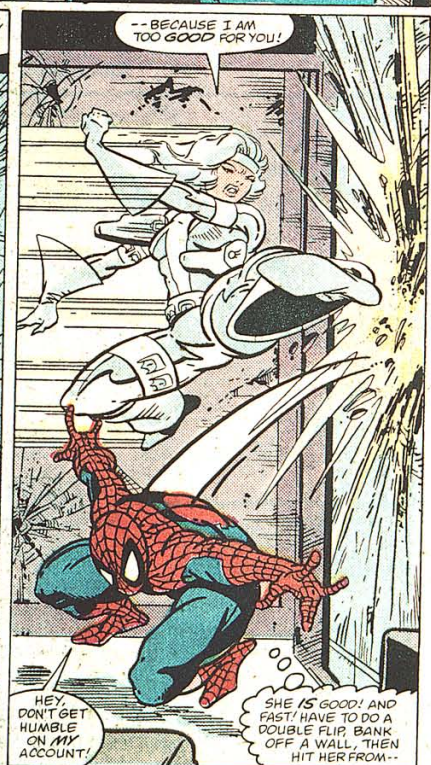
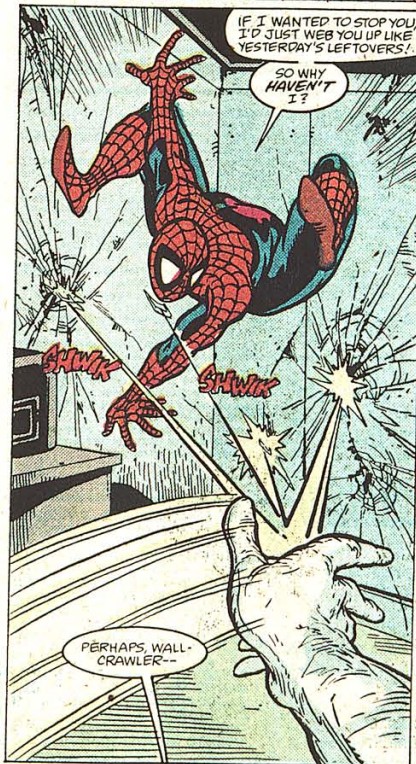
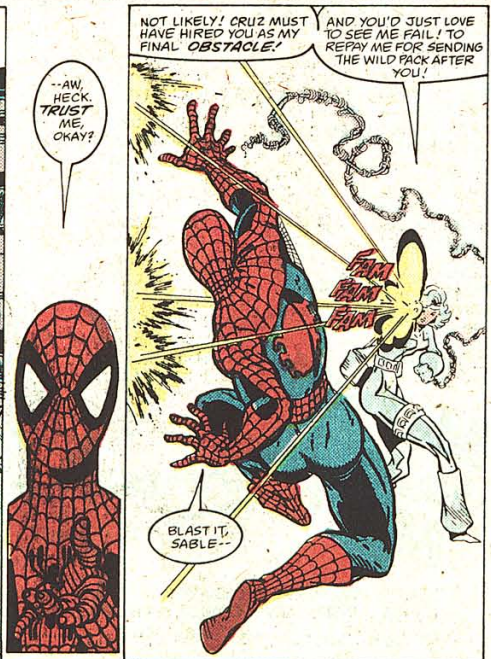
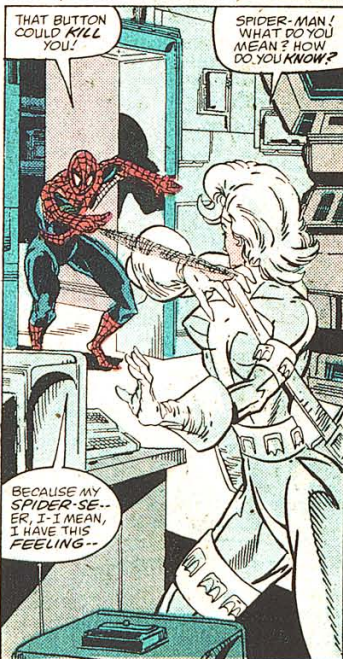
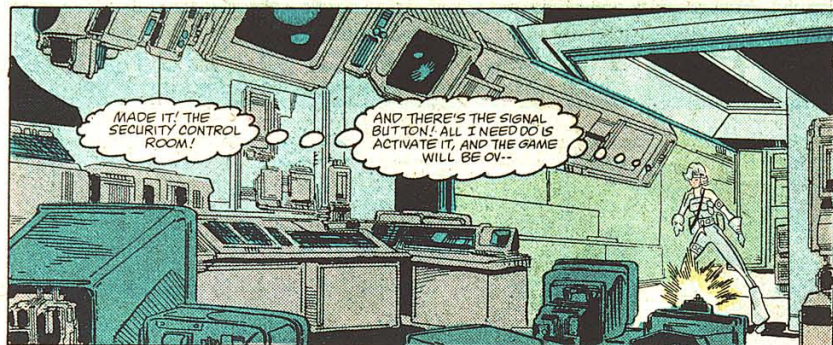
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

ITEM: You wouldn't think that annihilating a major U.S. city would create such a stir... When word of Pittsburgh's impending destruction in the New Universe's THE PITT Bookshelf Edition leaked out, the Marvel offices were stormed with interested and indignant inquiries from the various media of the doomed city (doomed in the New Universe, anyway). It started with radio station WXXP, and eventually The Pittsburgh Press, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Point Park College's The Globe, WTAE radio, and even KDKA television interviewed the various creative parties responsible and ran articles or segments about the tragedy. What the Pittsburgh area media wanted to know was: "Why us?" We tried to explain that the obliteration of America's Most Livable City was a dramatic outgrowth of the ongoing storyline in STAR BRAND, but they seemed less than satisfied. However, when we pointed out that the three creative types who brainstormed the idea of Pittsburgh's demise, New U editor Howard Mackie, and writers John Byrne and Mark Gruenwald, are "killed" in the very same issue that Pittsburgh is, they were a bit more mollified. Thanks go to Kelly O'Toole of the Greater Pittsburgh Office of Promotion for helping us get our side of the story out, and to the people of the greater Pittsburgh area for being such sports about our fictional nuking.

ITEM: We're in the midst of preparing a profusely-illustrated "coffee table" book telling the history of Marvel Comics from the 1930s to the present for publication in late '88. Unfortunately, our archives don't contain everything we'd like to include in the book. We're especially interested in locating unpublished covers; unlinked, pencilled pages by Marvel artists; preliminary design sketches for Marvel characters; and old photos of the Marvel offices and staff. If you should happen to have such collector's pieces in your collection, we'd like to arrange to copy them so they can be included.

In the book. Write us in care of Mark Gruenwald. History will thank you.
ITEM: One of comic fandom's largest-circulation weekly newspapers, The Comics Buyer's Guide, is holding their annual Fan Awards to determine your favorite writer, penciler, inker, colorist, letterer, editor, story, character and a whole slew of other faves. If you would like to make your favorites known, pick up a copy of this month's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for the official ballot, or fill out one of your own according to the rules below. Tell them Marvel sent you!

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1987

1. Favorite Editor, 2. Favorite Writer, 3. Favorite Penciller, 4. Favorite Inker, 5. Favorite Colorist, 6. Favorite Letterer, 7. Favorite Cover Artist, 8. Favorite Comic Book Story, 9. Favorite Comic Book Character, 10. Favorite Limited Comic Book Series, 11. Favorite Original Graphic Novel, 12. Favorite Reprint Graphic Novel, 13. Favorite Character, 14. Favorite Publication about Comics, and 15. Ballot Sealing Award for Favorite Direct-Sale-Only Title.

Only material coordinated 1987 is eligible for consideration. Votes for ineligible material will not be counted. Anyone may copy and circulate this ballot, and any fan may vote only once and vote for no more than one nominee in each category. Ballot-box stuffing will result in the destruction of all ballots involved. You need not vote in all categories. Comics Buyer's Guide is not eligible for Category 14.

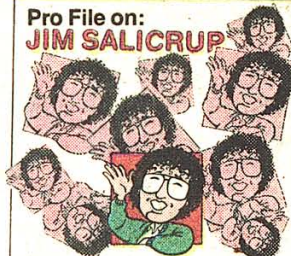
A free copy of Comics Buyer's Guide #756, dated May 13, 1988 (which will carry the results of voting), will be sent to any U.S. voter who does not already have a current or expired subscription to CBG. Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that a sample copy cannot be sent unless the vote is accompanied by \$1.50 in U.S. funds to cover costs of handling and shipping to another country.

Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by March 31, 1988, to Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards, 700 East State Street, Iola, Wisconsin 54901.

Include your Name, Age, Sex, Street or Box, City, State, and ZIP.

Please type or print your votes and information clearly.

Pro File on: JIM SALICRUP



Editor on: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, MARVEL TALES, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, AND WHAT THE--?, a new humor comic in the tradition of NOT BRAND ECCO.

Marvel freelance credits (past): I wrote SPIDEY SUPER STORIES, the Spider-Man

story in SPIDER-MAN AND THE POWER PACK Child Abuse prevention comic, THE A-TEAM, THE TRANSFORMERS, THE INHUMANS, THE VISIONARIES, KOOL-AID MAN, QUIK BUNNY, and many more that even I won't admit to.

My hobbies are: Non-existent.
The single work of which I am most proud is: THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TOILET PAPER starring THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK. I hope Spider-Man didn't like the story they knew what they could do with it.

My pet peeves are: Those people out there who're going around calling others Marvel Zombies! I've even launched a series of editorials in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE crusading against this epidemic. And I promise each and every one of you that I won't rest until this long national nightmare is over.

My place of birth is: The same as most Marvel Universe characters—Manhattan.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Finding an affordable apartment near my place of birth.

My oddest habit is: Waking up at 6:00 AM three times a week to take an aerobic class at a place they laughingly call the "Joy of Movement." If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like

to see my part played by: Jerry Lewis. At least they'd love it in France.

The reason I got into comics was: It's one of the greatest loves of my life. People who knew me in High School thought I was: The luckiest guy in the world to already be working at Marvel.

My favorite performers are: Ringo Starr, Marv Griffin, Alice Cooper, Buster Poindexter, Lassie, Captain Kangaroo, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, William Powell, Myrna Loy, Carole Lombard, Mariel Hemingway, Brooke Shields, and many, many more.

The last good book I read was: SLAVES OF NEW YORK by Tama Janowitz.

The last good movie I saw was: SNOWWHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS.

The biggest influences on my work include: Stan Lee, Jim Shooter, and Andy Warhol.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To make AMAZING SPIDER-MAN the number one best-selling comic in the world.

The worst part of my job is: Finding enough time to do everything I want to do.

When nobody's looking I like to: Plug MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

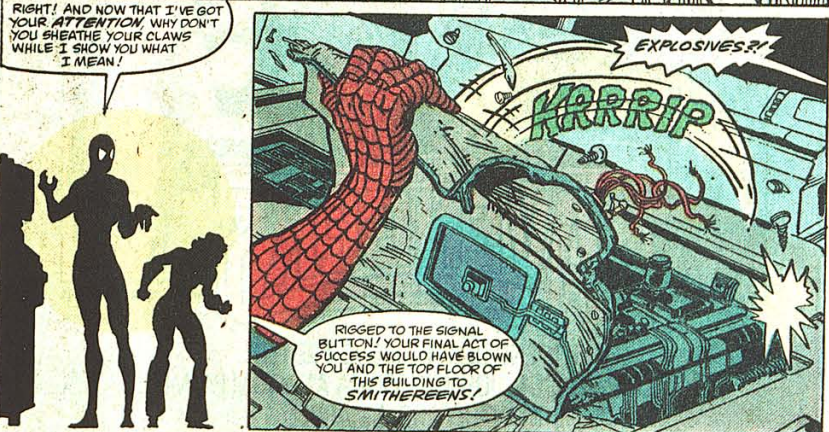
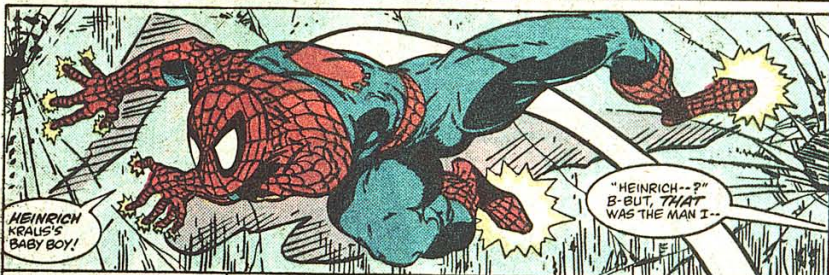
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: That Gladys Helling and Dwight Jon Zimmerman do all my work.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #255
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #33
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #11
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #19
- ☐ TALES OF G.I. JOE #6
- ☐ WHAT IF...? SPECIAL #1
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #342
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #17
- ☐ STRANGE TALES #15
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #59
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #301
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #64
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #344
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #212
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #292
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #207
- ☐ G.I. JOE #72
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #9

- ☐ SILVER SURFER #12
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #230
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #38
- ☐ THE FANTASTIC FOUR #315
- ☐ IRON MAN #231
- ☐ THOR #382
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #22
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- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #148
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #63
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- ☐ CONAN SAGA #13
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #6

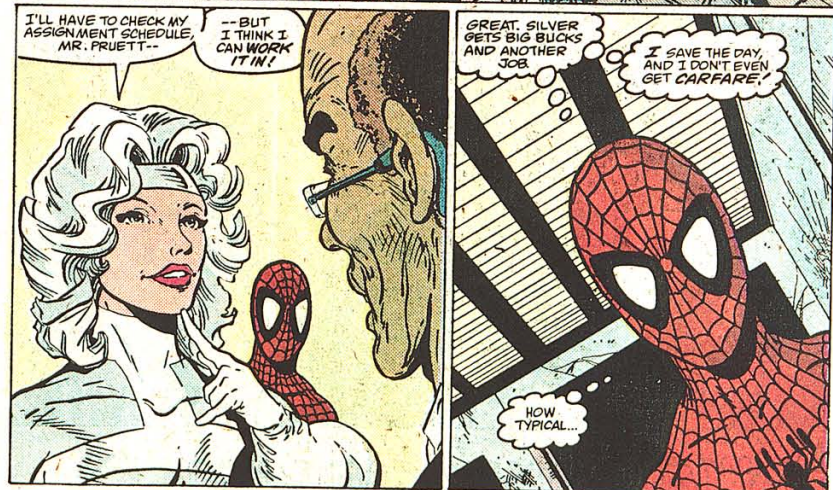
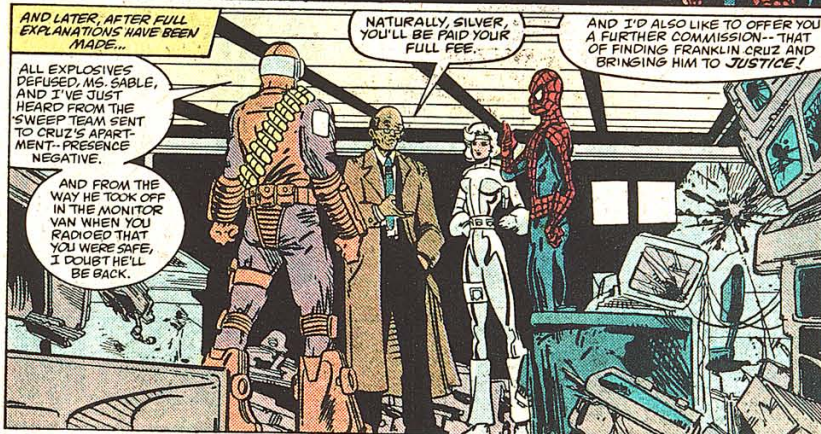


THEY WERE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.
NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.



THE END BEGINS. ISSUE #291, BY
WALT SIMONSON, JOHN BUSCEMA AND TOM PALMER.
MONTHLY FROM MARVEL.

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THE TRIP HOME IS MADE SLOWLY, INTROSPECTIVELY...



GUESS I SHOULDN'T BEGRUDGE SILVER. THE WAY I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR BETTER-PAYING WORK MYSELF--



-- I SHOULD BE GLAD SOMEONE'S DOING WELL!

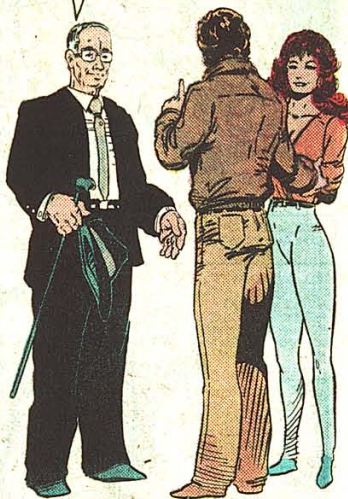
MARY JANE! I'M--

-- BACK? WE'VE GOT COMPANY, PETER. THIS IS MARTIN JACOB.

UH, HI.

I REPRESENT ON-LINE RESEARCH, IN EMPORIA, KANSAS. AND YOU, MY BOY, ARE A HARD PERSON TO RUN DOWN!

DR. CONNERS WARNED US ABOUT THAT WHEN HE RECOMMENDED YOU.



CLINT CONNERS?! HE'S A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST-- BUT HE ALSO TRANSFORMS INTO THE LIZARD-- ONE OF MY DEADLIEST ENEMIES!

IF HE SENT THIS MAN HERE--



YOU LOOK APPREHENSIVE, MY BOY. LET ME PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE. ON-LINE NEEDS A NEW CHIEF ASSISTANT IN OUR EXPERIMENTAL DIVISION. AND I'VE COME TO OFFER THAT JOB--

-- TO YOU!

NEXT

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLACE A WALL-CRAWLING CITY-SLICKEE IN THE MIDST OF AMERICA'S HEARTLAND? FIND OUT IN--

"(MID) AMERICAN GOTHIC!"

30

THE SPIDER'S WEB

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Jim,

Having Kraven narrate the story in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #292 was, to say the least, a very interesting concept.

Kraven's personal demon was personified in Spider-Man and his symbolic killing of his demon finally brought him peace.

I do have trouble with Kraven's final solution to finding peace and happiness. No, I'm not going to preach but I can already see the letters you'll be getting.

All that aside, if the work done on the next issue is half as good, it will surely be a sell-out.

R. Glen Blystone
RD #1, Box 249
Creekside, PA 15732

You mentioned something about the letters we'd be receiving...

Dear Sir,

I am writing to let you know how little I think of your company for advocating suicide in your comic books. (THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294 Nov. 87)

I cannot understand what kind of people would publish such an article while so many children are indeed killing themselves by suicide. It is one of the major reasons for teenage death in America.

I will never buy another of your books for my children and if I find that they have bought one it will be destroyed. I am also sending copies of this to every friend, church, school district I know of to prevent such destroying literature to be seen by American children.

Pamela M. Holloway
(no address given)

Kraven was a villain and he was insane. We certainly do not advocate the actions of villains, especially insane ones.

Dear Marvel,

This letter is in reference to the recent 6-part Spider-Man saga with Kraven. It has to do with Part V and what it had to say.

First, let me say that I have been a fan of SPIDER-MAN since its inception and I have collected since issue #5. So I have seen many, many adventures that the mighty Kraven has gone through.

And when I heard about the 6-part adventure, I was more than a little excited. In fact,

after the first four issues, I thought this was going to be one of the best stories of '87.

But that changed after reading Part V. While the tone of the entire story has been gloomy, I was still surprised and disturbed by the ending. I am not religious by any means and I do not see suicide as a sin, but I do not like the reasoning that was presented for Kraven to blow his mind out.

We live in a society whose teenagers commit suicide every day over stupid reasons like breaking up with their girlfriends or parent trouble, so when I saw you justifying Kraven's suicide by saying that he has achieved everything in life that he wanted and that he no longer had anything more to accomplish, I find the connotation very dangerous, especially since many of your readers are teenagers who are still trying to decide what they want to do with their lives. This story just creates another false image to the sickness that we call suicide.

Suicide is a problem we should be trying to deal with, and educate, not glorify. Suicide, just like the drug problem, is a sickness, and it should not be presented, especially when we can't offer a solution to the problem.

If you had wanted to kill Kraven, let him die the way he lived, fighting wild animals, not by using the one weapon he abhorred throughout his career. Kraven never used a gun, so why now?

I do not believe that suicide can be presented positively, especially in a mainstream comic dealing with today's society.

Peter Pak
847 Yale St. #102
Los Angeles, CA 90012

We wholeheartedly agree with you, Peter. As far as Kraven's suicide goes, well, let's hear from Bill Cimber, whose opinion pretty much sums up our own...

Dear Crew,

To state the obvious, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294, "Thunder," was another excellent piece of work done by J.M. DeMatteis. It was not at all what I expected. I expected a furious Spider-Man (he was) and a whole issue packed with fighting between Pete and Kraven. This is where I was wrong. Kraven had no intention of battling Spider-Man at all. He was so calm it was almost like he knew he couldn't fight Pete and win.

"Thunder" was truly shocking. I really find it hard to believe that Kraven killed himself. I always remember Kraven so sure of himself, so positive. But his mind must have gone haywire. That would account for this whole thing. Pretending to be the 'spidey' while the real Spidey is drugged beneath the ground. After all, wasn't this his final clutch at victory, his final attempt to win? Yes. In his eyes he did win. I found myself actually feeling a bit sorry for Kraven at the end of #294. He seemed almost like a weary friend rather than an enemy.

Kraven was a villain we all enjoyed for many years. Now, we'll just have to find another hunter to take his place. Thank you,

Bill Cimber
3330 Richmond-La Rue Rd.
La Rue, OH 43032

SALICRUP'S SECTION



Glenn Herdling is a sneaky guy. He thought he could put together this month's letters column, which raised a few very serious questions about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294, and then trick me into coming up with a brilliant response in my little column. Well, I can be sneaky too, Mr. Herdling. You see, as a result of the controversial ending to the Kraven saga, J.M. DeMatteis was inspired to write a follow-up tale that will deal with many of the points raised by our concerned correspondents, and I'm sure it will be far more eloquent than anything I could possibly say here. We'll let you know when we expect this story as soon as we work out all the details. But before I move on to other matters I'd just like to say that I simply don't believe that AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294 advocates suicide. It's about an insane man and his insane actions. Most of you agreed, but we're always willing to listen to other points of view.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
STATEMENT OF SERVICE
MANAGEMENT AND
CIRCULATION
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2. Publication No.: 0273-3222
3. Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
4. Issue Date: NOVEMBER 1987
5. Annual Subscription Price: \$9.00 U.S. \$11.00 Canada
6. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
8. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher: Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Editor: Stan Lee, Marvel Entertainment, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020
10. Owner: Marvel Entertainment, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None
12. Tax Status: For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates. Check one:
A. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Check one:
1. The organization is not a nonprofit organization.
2. The organization is a nonprofit organization.
13. Publication Title: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: NOVEMBER 1987
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run): 400,000
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation:
1. Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales: 100,000
2. Paid Distribution by Mail: 100,000
3. Paid Distribution by Other Means: 0
4. Total Paid Circulation: 200,000
C. Free Distribution by Mail: 100,000
D. Free Distribution by Other Means: 0
E. Total Free Distribution: 100,000
F. Total (Sum of B4, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B10, B11, B12, B13, B14, B15, B16, B17, B18, B19, B20, B21, B22, B23, B24, B25, B26, B27, B28, B29, B30, B31, B32, B33, B34, B35, B36, B37, B38, B39, B40, B41, B42, B43, B44, B45, B46, B47, B48, B49, B50, B51, B52, B53, B54, B55, B56, B57, B58, B59, B60, B61, B62, B63, B64, B65, B66, B67, B68, B69, B70, B71, B72, B73, B74, B75, B76, B77, B78, B79, B80, B81, B82, B83, B84, B85, B86, B87, B88, B89, B90, B91, B92, B93, B94, B95, B96, B97, B98, B99, B100): 300,000
16. Copies not Distributed: 100,000
17. Copies of Single Issues Not Distributed: 0
18. Copies of Single Issues Distributed: 0
19. Total (Sum of B16, B17, B18, B19, B20, B21, B22, B23, B24, B25, B26, B27, B28, B29, B30, B31, B32, B33, B34, B35, B36, B37, B38, B39, B40, B41, B42, B43, B44, B45, B46, B47, B48, B49, B50, B51, B52, B53, B54, B55, B56, B57, B58, B59, B60, B61, B62, B63, B64, B65, B66, B67, B68, B69, B70, B71, B72, B73, B74, B75, B76, B77, B78, B79, B80, B81, B82, B83, B84, B85, B86, B87, B88, B89, B90, B91, B92, B93, B94, B95, B96, B97, B98, B99, B100): 300,000
20. Copies of Single Issues Not Distributed: 0
21. Copies of Single Issues Distributed: 0
22. Total (Sum of B16, B17, B18, B19, B20, B21, B22, B23, B24, B25, B26, B27, B28, B29, B30, B31, B32, B33, B34, B35, B36, B37, B38, B39, B40, B41, B42, B43, B44, B45, B46, B47, B48, B49, B50, B51, B52, B53, B54, B55, B56, B57, B58, B59, B60, B61, B62, B63, B64, B65, B66, B67, B68, B69, B70, B71, B72, B73, B74, B75, B76, B77, B78, B79, B80, B81, B82, B83, B84, B85, B86, B87, B88, B89, B90, B91, B92, B93, B94, B95, B96, B97, B98, B99, B100): 300,000
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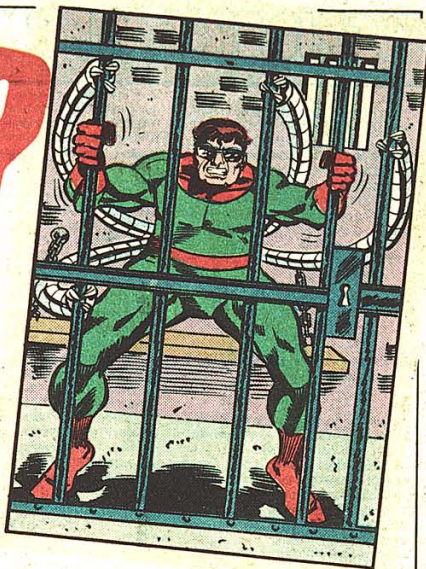
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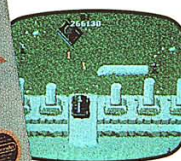
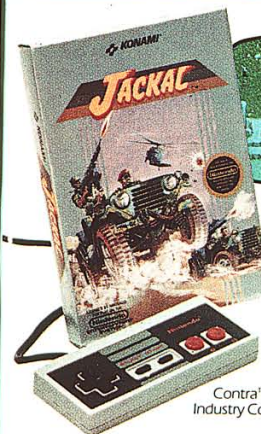
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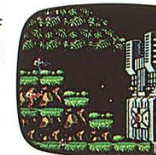
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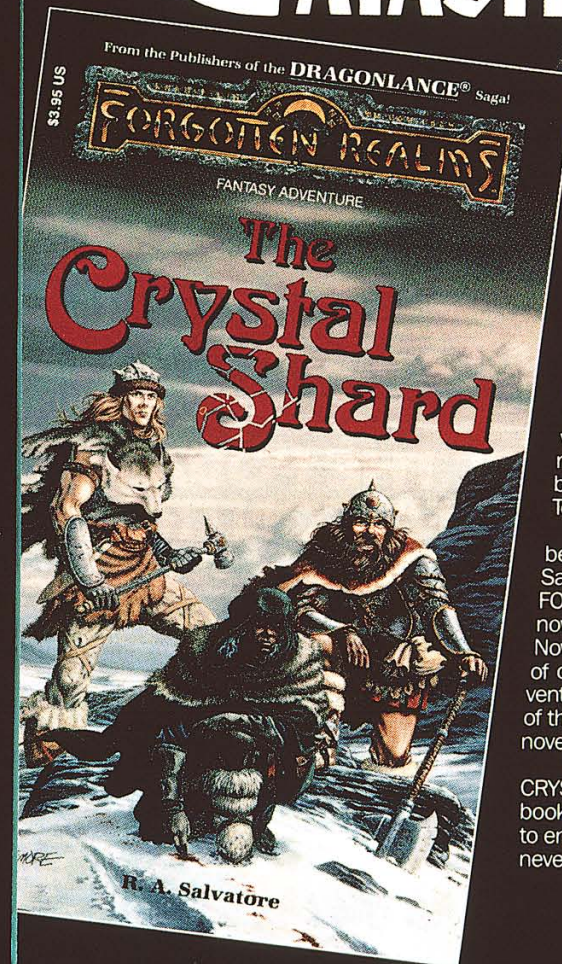
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